



ARKANSAS
Department of Environmental Quality

April 16, 2009

Mr. Samuel Coleman, Director
Superfund Division (6SF)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733

Re: Norphlet Chemical, Inc.
600 MacMillan Road
Norphlet, AR 71759
AFIN: 70-00694
EPAID: ARD008049207

Dear Mr. Coleman:

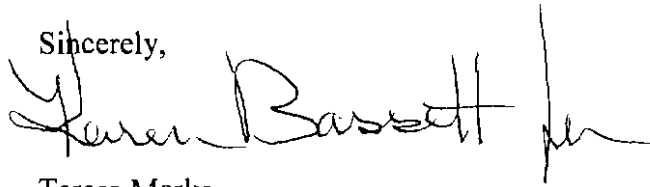
The Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) is concerned about conditions at the Norphlet Chemical facility and requests that materials be removed from the property.

During the past week, the Department of Homeland Security conducted an inspection at this facility to ascertain the security of hazardous materials and other chemical feedstocks stored at Norphlet Chemical. During the course of the inspection, a storage tank containing approximately 7,800 gallons of hydrofluoric acid was discovered to be in dilapidated condition, posing an imminent threat of release to the environment. This tank poses not only a hazard to the employees at the plant, but also to an adjacent elementary school and the surrounding community. A conference call was held between Homeland Security headquarters, EPA Region 6 Superfund Division staff, and ADEQ staff on the morning of April 16, 2009, and it was determined that the best course of action to address the threat of imminent release was to carry out a removal of the tank's contents.

ADEQ requests that U.S. EPA Region 6 respond to the site to abate the releases and threatened releases to protect public health and the environment, including but not limited to shipment of the material off-site for disposal and removal of material from the process systems. Under provisions of the Ark. Code, Ann., § 8-7-508(b), ADEQ staff and their representatives (including EPA personnel and their contractors) may enter upon any public or private property for the purpose of collecting information under the provisions of the Arkansas Remedial Action Trust Fund Act, and for initiating and carrying out any remedial actions pursuant to the Act.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at (501) 682-0959.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen Bassett", followed by a vertical line.

Teresa Marks
Director

cc: Karen Bassett, Chief Deputy Director
Ryan Benefield, Deputy Director
Penny Wilson, Inspector Supervisor, E&IB, HWD
Mary Pearson, Inspector Supervisor, E&IB, HWD
Steve Mason, (6SFPR), U.S. EPA Region 6